



via pacis

Newsletter of the Des Moines Catholic Worker Community

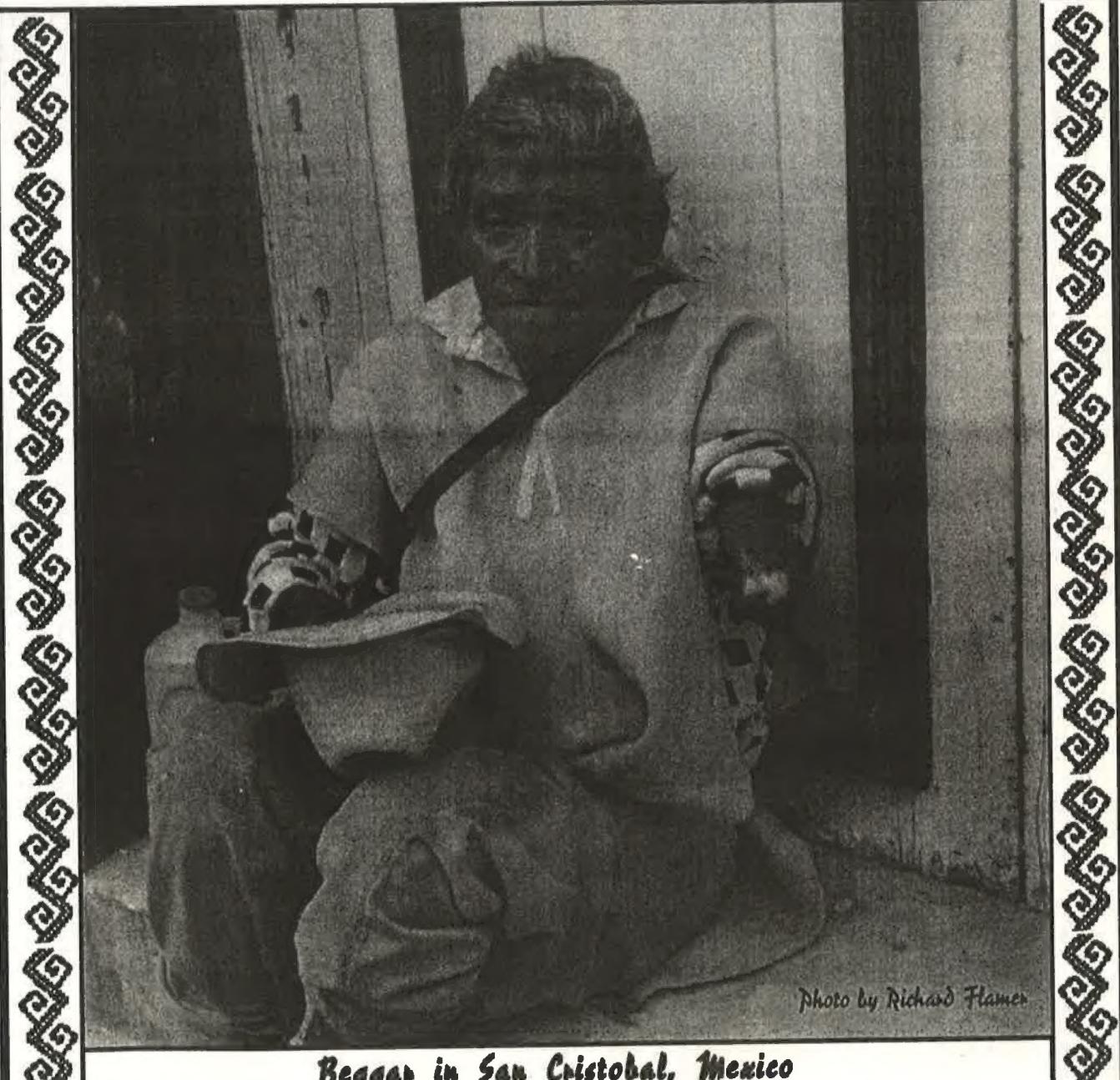


Photo by Richard Flamer

Beggar in San Cristobal, Mexico

DMCW Chiapas Mission Project p.4-5

Mike Sprong on Silence Trident Action p.1 & 6



Mike Sprong among friends after his September 28 talk in Des Moines

Photo by Bob Bramer

Interview with Michael Sprong on *Silence Trident Action*

This interview was done by Frank Cordaro at the Midwest Catholic Worker Center, Sugar Creek, Iowa, on September 16, 2000.

Frank Cordaro (FC): Mike, would you update us on the current legal status regarding your disarmament action?

Michael Sprong (MS): On the 24th of 2000 Bonnie Urfer and I did the "Silence Trident" Disarmament Action, took the Project ELF system off-line and were charged with the state of Wisconsin with sabotage and intentional damage to property. Both are bondies; both carry 10 years in prison and life or both. They quickly dropped the sabotage charge because the state of Wisconsin has never been able to convict previous [ELF pole-cutters] on sabotage. And the District Attorney in Ashland, Wisconsin did something that was unprecedented and insisted that the United States District Attorney take on the case that the County of Ashland and the State of Wisconsin should no longer do the dirty work of the federal government when people come to the ELF site and take the system off-line. He held to that firmly against a lot of pressure, insisting that the Feds should take the case, and eventually twisted the arm of the U.S. Attorney so that they are now committed to taking on this case.

So, for the first time ever the state of Wisconsin dropped charges against people who had taken down the polls at ELF. On August 28th, the charges were dropped for Bonnie Urfer and myself. The \$1,000 bond that I put up to be released at the time was turned to me, and Bonnie Urfer and I are currently free and facing no charges. However, the U.S. Attorney in Madison, Wisconsin is committed to carrying out an indictment against us and on Oct. 5th the U.S. Attorney is going to meet in Madison with attorneys who are representing Bonnie and I and we will see what happens at that meeting.



FC: So your status is still somewhat up in air. Could you at least from this point reflect on some of the lessons so far on your action, perhaps some of the more difficult things you have to deal with during this intermediate time?

MS: For me the most difficult thing is not knowing exactly what is going to happen. Part of the reason we went to [Project ELF] and took this first strike nuclear weapon system off-line was because Bonnie Urfer and I were touched profoundly by international law experts like Francis Boyle, Anabel Dwyer and other attorneys in the U.S. and all over the world who are focusing on the legal question of defending civil resistance under international law. Using existing international treaties and conventions and compacts to which the U.S. is a signatory, these attorneys are claiming that first strike nuclear weapon systems are a gross violation of domestic and international law. They basically constitute a war crime and any reasonable nonviolent measure, even to the extent of using our bodies and tools to take these weapons systems off-line, are not only legal but are a moral imperative, an obligation especially for the citizens of a country that have these weapons systems pointed at the rest of the world.

We are told by Francis Boyle, International Law professor at the U of Illinois, that state courts are the best place to raise these legal issues. And traditionally this is

certainly the case at the ELF site. On two previous occasions when poles were taken down at the ELF site, the charges of sabotage were beaten. So following Francis Boyle's admonition, we did our disarmament action at ELF expecting to get into state court with the opportunity of giving our full international law defense. That's changed, now, so our whole plan has changed.

For me personally, as a person of faith ... I'm told, especially by my good friend Fr. Larry Morlan ... that I'm not in limbo

at all, that I am in very good hands right now; that I am in God's hands. And that is true. So I continue to be faithful and look forward to whatever happens. Still, not knowing what exactly is going to happen is difficult for me. Fortunately there's been lots of support. There's a good community [supporting me] and regardless of whether this was a legal crime prevention act under international law or not I would have done this disarmament action. And in that I continue to be strong, mostly because of the strong support community that I have. But it has been difficult. Of course, in all of these situations we break new ground in disarming ourselves and working in community with one another as equals and this is always difficult. I think we have done it well this time but it's always a challenge in our individualistic society and culture of domination. It's always very difficult to learn how to operate in true community and that has been a struggle.

international law issues surrounding our trial. We really want to fill the courtroom with our friends and supporters. It is really important that as much attention as possible be focused on the judge and the prosecutor because if they try to shut down our defense and give us no opportunity to defend ourselves, we want as many eyes watching them as possible.



FC: What would you ask of the readers of *Via Pacis* in the way of support for your witness and for the things to come?

MS: Well, first of all, of course prayers. That is what is most needed. Also, it would be great to have folks who are interested in knowing how they can help us ... once we have some firm information on whether or not there are Federal charges ... get a hold of us at Nukewatch and get on our "Silence Trident" Disarmament Action mailing list. And we can always use some financial help too.

FC: And when the trial comes would you like people to attend?

MS: When the charges do come down and a trial date is set we would love to have folks come on up to Madison, Wisconsin and attend the trial. We are going to have a Festival of Hope the night before the trial starts. The day before the trial we are going to have a teach in about ELF and the

**Close the
School
of the
Americas**

Nov 17 -19

DMCWs will travel to Fort Benning, GA for the annual Close the School of the Americas vigil and nonviolent civil disobedience protest. We will be driving out with our community van and may have room for a few extra people. We will connect with other CWS at the event. Anyone interested in joining us should contact us at (515) 243-0765 ASAP.

For more information on the event nationally contact:

SOA Watch
P.O. Box 4566
Wash. DC 20017
Ph. (202) 234-3440
<www.sow.org>

Songs of Peace, Freedom, Justice and Hope!

An Intimate Night with folk singers

Charlie King & Karen Brandow:

Friends of nonviolent war resisters, union organizers, socialist, feminist, tree huggers, Catholic Workers and all who struggle for peace and justice.

Saturday, November 4, 7:30 PM

Chet Quinn's Fire Station
1041 8th St, Des Moines

\$10 a ticket, (Limited to the first 75.)
Fund Raiser for the Catholic Peace Ministry
For more information and ticket reservations call:
Catholic Peace Ministry at (515) 255-8114

by Fran Fuller

As the newest members of the DM Catholic Worker Community, we'd like to introduce ourselves. We're Fran and Mike Fuller. We've been married 26 years and are the parents of three daughters and two grandchildren. We began volunteering at the Dingman House last September and have been amazed by what we've seen here. So much so, in fact, that not to become more involved would be incredibly sad. Since this is a story of God's grace, we'd like to share a little of it with you.

When Mike and I married, neither of us was pursuing a relationship with God. I was raised Catholic and Mike's family didn't attend church. The journey that brought us to the point of joining the DMCW has been very bumpy. We never seemed to be on the same path spiritually.

In 1980, Mike became a "born again" Christian. I thought he was nuts! All the talk about asking Jesus into your heart sounded very strange to

my "Catholic" ears. After a while, he became discouraged about his faith because he couldn't be as perfect as others in his church seemed to be. (In reality, I think he was just more honest.) While he was pulling away, God was waking me up spiritually.

In 1990, Mike and I joined Christ Community Church. There we've been blessed with teaching that challenges and keeps us



DMCW photo

Fran and Mike Fuller

growing in faith. The idea of *House Churches* is strongly promoted. These are small groups of people who meet during the week to study, pray and get involved in each other's lives. We had many discussions in this setting on what it means to be a follower of Jesus and how the support of a community of believers is necessary.

Over the years, we've learned it's much too easy for us to blend in with the rest of the world instead of looking different because of Jesus. We had the very uncomfortable feeling that our lives didn't reflect what we said we believed. We've sought after many things in our attempt to fill the void in our lives. Things like jobs, houses and vacations certainly don't satisfy for long.

For Mike and me, following Jesus means being willing to go where Jesus went and do what Jesus did. It is in following Him that we are transformed by Him and reach our potential of being

fully human ... created in His image. We are called to embody Christ rather than assent to a list of beliefs. These convictions led us to begin volunteering at the DMCW on a regular basis. We quickly felt at home here. God has graciously brought us to an actual place where the Gospel is lived out very physically on a daily basis. All of a sudden, we had a real-life example of what King

dom living looks like. These were no longer just abstract concepts for discussion.

The big addition of Mike and Fuller to DMCW

Community. V

Community was both exc

ing and sca

We've decide

to sell our

home and

Vern

mer int

went bac

He was n

have with

he is alw

back. T

Stanford

parents p

house. C

October,

moved ou

doing we

focusing

20 years

DMCW c

Searah is

all abou

Whereab

these guy

far. They

October,

moved ou

doing we

focusing

20 years

DMCW c

Searah is

all abou

Whereab

these guy

far. They

October,

moved ou

doing we

focusing

20 years

DMCW c

Searah is

all abou

Whereab

these guy

far. They

October,

moved ou

doing we

focusing

20 years

DMCW c

Searah is

all abou

Whereab

these guy

far. They

October,

moved ou

doing we

focusing

20 years

DMCW c

Searah is

all abou

Whereab

these guy

far. They

October,

moved ou

doing we

focusing

20 years

DMCW c

Searah is

all abou

Whereab

these guy

far. They

October,

moved ou

doing we

focusing

20 years

DMCW c

Searah is

all abou

Whereab

these guy

far. They

October,

moved ou

doing we

focusing

20 years

DMCW c

Searah is

all abou

Whereab

these guy

far. They

October,

moved ou

doing we

focusing

20 years

DMCW c

Searah is

all abou

Whereab

these guy

far. They

October,

moved ou

doing we

focusing

20 years

DMCW c

Searah is

all abou

Whereab

these guy

far. They

October,

moved ou

doing we

focusing

20 years

DMCW c

Searah is

all abou

Whereab

these guy

far. They

October,

moved ou

doing we

focusing

20 years

DMCW c

Searah is

all abou

Whereab

these guy

far. They

October,

moved ou

doing we

focusing

20 years

DMCW c

Searah is

all abou

Whereab

these guy

far. They

October,

moved ou

doing we

focusing

Community

NEWS

by Carla Dawson-Ngamo

Hello! I hope this article finds everyone enjoying the pleasant fall weather. I have some comings and goings to report and some happy and sad news too.

The big news on comings is the addition of Mike and Fran Fuller to our DMCW community. We are all excited about Mike



and Fran's joining us. We expect them to move into Ligutti House as soon as they sell their house. Read all about their decision to join us in Fran's article on page 2.

Vern (Ted) Walker the Summer intern from Notre Dame, went back to finish his last year. He was more than a pleasure to have with us, we hope he knows he is always welcome to come back. Ted's cousin Graham Stanford is back east helping his parents paint his grand mother's house. Graham will be back in October. Mark Messer has moved out of the DMCW and is doing well. He has been really focusing on dancing. After over 20 years of living in the DMCW community, Norman Searah is moving out. Read all about it in *Norman's Whereabouts*. All three of these guys are not moving far. They are moving next

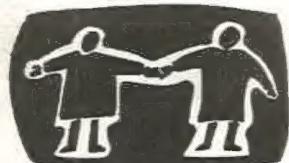
door into Meredith Bruns' and Erick Davidson's house.

Speaking of Meredith and Erick, they did a great job coordinating our community garden. I must admit that my plot was the best keep plot in the garden. And all those slackers who didn't weed their plots will have a hard time getting space in next year's garden! You know who you are...

Eddie Bloomer was busier than ever this past month. Eddie placed eight cats into good homes. Ask Eddie about the great cat roundup. He is truly a man who lives his life in the spirit of St. Martin de Porres.

Richard Flamer has been busy working with work crews on finishing the attic and scrapping and prepping the outside of Dingman House. He built some great shelves for our new second floor office in Dingman House. Check it out. And ask Flamer about his fingers.

Fr. Frank Cordaro has been busy with weekend priestly duties. The Bishop has assigned Fr. Frank as a "fill in" priest for weekend Masses while allowing him to continue to



Rita Corbin

live with us at the DMCW. Fr. Frank and Richard are trying to get the Chiapas Project off and running (see article on pages 4 & 5).

Mike Thompson has been

really is Dermody and that he's 72 years old, not 65. Thanks to Wendy Bobbit for helping to sort this all out for Jerry. And Irving Schroeder continues to be a great support for me and the commu-



DMCW photo

Teshaiya McDonald, youngest member of the DMCW

working like mad taking up the slack in house coverage now that we are low in community members. He's also our expert in fixing plugged up toilets. Ask him about the spark plug he found in the Dingman House toilet.

The big news about Jerry McDermott is that his last name

not only does he do all the community laundry in the basement of Lazarus House, he also helps do the daily cleaning of Lazarus House. I don't know what I would do without him.

Jackie Robinson (my sister) and I spent a week in Long Beach, CA visiting "Mean" Jean Yugor.

We had a blast! Jean is one of the best hostesses I have ever had the pleasure to visit. Thank you Jean for the wonderful time.

My oldest son Julius finished driver education and is now playing football and loves being a Junior. My second son Joshua is getting adjusted to middle school; he is still doing wonderful drawings, and picking at his younger brother. Jordan is getting ready to be on a week-long vacation in October. He goes to school year round and has been in school 11 weeks. He was chosen to take an important science test in October. And the newest member of my household is Teshaiya McDonald. My 5 year old great-niece has been staying with us for about two months and will be with us for a while. It is very different having a little girl in the house.

I save the sad news for last. My husband Richard is in Cameron, Africa. His 16 year old sister died

of complications from two surgeries she had. He will be gone for about two months. As most of you know he has not been home for eight years. I ask you all to keep Richard and his family in your prayers during these difficult times. I miss him. I hope and pray he will make it back home safely.

I received an A in my sociology class. I'm now taking two more classes. At this rate I'll graduate in the year 2004 or 2005. Thanks for all your prayers and support... God bless each and everyone and have a wonderful fall.



Rita Corbin

Norman's Whereabouts

by Norman Searah

It's a sunny, breezy September afternoon here in Des Moines. I'm writing my article from my favorite highway rest area. I often spend time here. Other times, I go to one of Des Moines' many parks. Or, lately I've been spending time with some of my diabetic friends. Here at the rest area, I see people stopping to use the restroom and vending machines. Families are using the picnic tables to eat food out of coolers they brought along. A few old people sit at a table playing cards, and semi trucks stop to rest for awhile.

My newest mission is letting people know that they should get their blood checked for diabetes. Even though you may find out that you do not have diabetes or

WHAT WE CAN'T
DO ALONE
WE CAN DO
TOGETHER



some other disease, like cancer; if you get your blood checked, at least you'll know. If you do find out that you have diabetes, there are many things you can do to manage it. A good thing to do besides finding a good doctor is to find another person who has diabetes. Some diabetics have started support groups. If you are diabetic, you have to start watching what you eat. At the same time, talk to your doctor about the changes you notice in your body. Don't let your diabetes drag you down, making you depressed like it does me sometimes. When that happens, I find myself in trouble and needing to go find help. I

keep learning new things about diabetes... some good, some not so good. I try to share what I learn with others.

I've just moved from the rest area to Gray's Lake. It's a nice park with a lake where people swim, or bring small boats and sail around. Some people come to fish or just lay around and get some sun. The city's doing a lot of improvements to this park, somewhat like what we're doing at the DMCW. We're making a lot of improvements in the houses so it will be easy to serve people. These are good days for the DMCW community, a good time for me to move on.

Years ago, I made a decision

to return to the DMCW after I had left it. At that time I was living at the Peoria Catholic Worker. I got a call from Wendy telling me that DMCW community was thinking about closing because everyone in the community was leaving. She said that if I was interested in coming back to the DMCW, the community would pay for a round trip bus ticket so I could go home to MA to visit my family and friends, as long as I returned to Des Moines.

Looking back, I realize it was a good move. It helped keep the community going when it needed the help. I now realize that the DMCW may never close just as long as there are plenty of people willing to help keep it going, like I did. And I think there are.

With my leaving the community (and not the Movement), there is room for another "Norman" to move into the community and explore the Catholic Worker way of life. I don't know what more to say but I thank you for your time and ask you for your prayers.

As I am looking at all these people coming and going, I'm also looking at what all of my years at the DMCW were all about. In the 21 years I've spent at the DMCW, a lot of people came into the community. After they were done doing what needed to be done, they moved on. Some came back again, but most just moved on. I find myself thinking like this because at the end of September I'll be moving out of the DMCW and back

DMCW to Help Complete Mayan Cultural Center



Last June, three Des Moines Catholic Workers: Fr. Frank Cordaro, Richard Flamer and Bob Wright, visited San Cristobal in Southern Mexico in the state of Chiapas, along the border of Guatemala. There we met people working with the displaced Mayan Indian population in and around the San Cristobal area. Many of the people worked with recently retired Bishop, Samuel Ruiz Garcia. Bishop Ruiz was Bishop of the Diocese of San Cristobal for the past 40 years, a diocese that is 80% Mayan Indian. He is internationally recognized as an advocate of Mayan Indian human rights. A friend of Archbishop Oscar Romero, Bishop Ruiz is known for his strong call for justice for indigenous peoples both outside and within the Church.

While in San Cristobal we also visited and observed the work of SYJAC, a Mayan Indian Cultural Center. SYJAC is a Tsotsil Mayan Indian word meaning "service to our people".

This center is one of the few organized groups working directly with the displaced rural Mayan Indian population. Close to 30,000 displaced persons are squatting on hillsides in or around the San Cristobal area. Most of these people struggle daily to get the most basic needs: food, water and shelter.

The center which is half built has only three unpaid staff persons at this time. The Center is a faith based ecumenical organization.

Bishop Ruiz remains a member of the center's board and an advocate for its work.

The Des Moines Catholic Worker community hopes to return Richard Flamer to San Cristobal with a \$10,000 donation.



Sr. Clotilde Murillo Amezcu, SYJAC Center

Photos by Richard Flamer



Fundamental Center in Chiapas, Mexico

of the
s work-
the dis-
Indian
30,000
e squat-
around
a. Most
de daily
asics

early in 2001 to com-
the building of and help
SYJAC. Richard is
suited for this task.
accomplished carpenter
electrician, Richard spent
in the 1980's and 90's
photojournalist in Central
America. He specialized in
working with the Mayan In-
dians in Guatemala
and got to know
Bishop Ruiz and
his team working
with Mayan In-
dian refugees in
Chiapas. It is our
hope that in helping
to complete and equip the
Cultural Center we'll be able to
establish an on-
going contact and
mission connection
with the center and its
work.
Catholic
opes to
to San

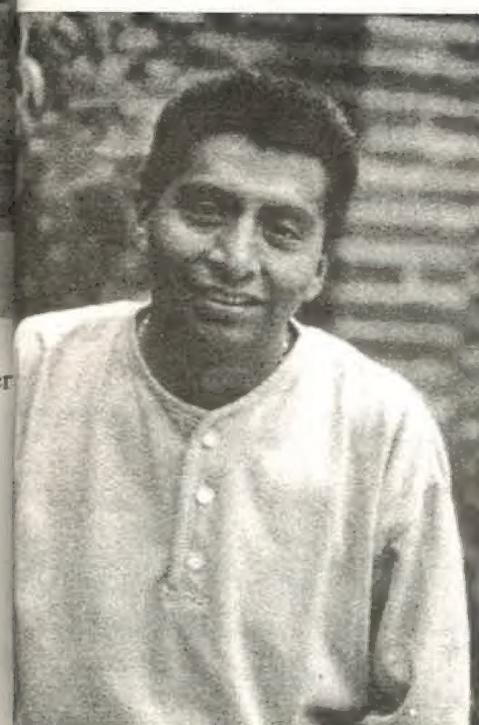
building (ie. complete the
kitchen, bathrooms, roof for
meeting area, etc.).

* 1985 - 1995 Nissan or
VW station wagon (parts are
available for same).

* Another \$10,000 to help
equip the center.

Fr. Frank Cordaro, Richard
Flamer and Bob Wright are
available to give talks and pre-
sentations on their trip to
Chiapas and the work of
SYJAC. A slide show and pho-
tos from the trip are available.
We are looking for churches,
organizations and individuals
willing to help us in this
project. Monies for this
project are being cleared
through the Catholic Peace
Ministry and are tax deductible.
Make all checks out to the
Catholic Peace Ministry and
ear marked for the Chiapas
Project.

For more information con-
tact: Fr. Frank Cordaro at the
Des Moines Catholic Worker,
ph. (515) 243-0765.



Ibas Cruz Garcia, SYJAC Center



When Faith and Law Are in Coincidence

by Mike Sprong

The following is a statement in regards to the *Silence Trident Disarmament Action*, June 24, 2000.

"They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore." (Isaiah 2:4 NIV)

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called [children] of God." (Matthew 5:9)

"There is in neither customary nor conventional international law any specific authorization of the threat or use of nuclear weapons." (Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons, Advisory Opinion of July 8, 1996; International Court of Justice)

Conscience and an obligation to prevent the crime of nuclear genocide and to defend the health and safety of residents in and around Ashland County, Wisconsin compel me to act on this 24th day of June in the year 2000. I perform this act of disarmament to enflame Isaiah's prophecy of a disarmed world, to follow Christ's example of universal love, and to comply with universally recognized humanitarian law. The U.S. Navy's Project ELF transmitter is an essential component of the first-strike Trident nuclear weapon system. Deep in the ocean, Trident submarines lurk, waiting for Project ELF to signal the start of Armageddon. The submarine-based Trident nuclear weapon system - the most costly and deadly weapon system in history - carries missiles armed with warheads that collectively have the destructive equivalent of 85,245 Hiroshima bombs.

It is a simple act: using an ordinary bow saw to begin interrupting the sequence necessary for ELF/Trident to threaten all of creation with annihilation. That sequence includes the acquiescence of U.S. citizens. Today I act



Nukewatch photo

Mike Sprong after cutting ELF pole on June 24, 2000

to end my part in the crime of threatening to use weapons of mass destruction against civilians and the earth. It is a simple act, but its implications are awesome. Like Martin Luther King, Jr., I believe that nonviolent direct action is a reasonable course when every other option of petitioning the government for redress of grievances has failed. Acting to disarm ELF/Trident is not only appropriate, but is the only reasonable alternative left to citizens who are convinced that weapons of mass destruction are illegal and immoral. From the moment I became aware of nuclear weapons, I knew they were immoral and a threat to all humanity. I saw the pictures taken after the bombing

of Hiroshima - images of hell on earth. As I grew in Christian faith to become a conscientious objector to war in all its forms, the study of what religious leaders have to say about nuclear weapons, war and violence became a primary endeavor. I read the U.S. Catholic Bishops' condemnation of nuclear weapons and deterrence, I read the document "In Defense of Creation" produced by the United Methodist Church, Minnesota Conference. I studied these and other published theological, spiritual, and educational materials on the heresy of war, particularly as it applies to nuclear weapons. From that study, I came to believe that war and the possession and planned use of nuclear

weapons are in direct opposition to God's will for humanity and all of creation.

In recent years I have come to learn that my faith is in coincidence with international and domestic laws that prohibit the threat or use of weapons that kill indiscriminately. Even the Law of Armed Conflict, to which the U.S. armed forces are bound, is designed to "limit the effects of armed conflict." Additionally, I learned that according to the U.S. Constitution, treaties, compacts, and conventions signed by U.S. presidents and ratified by the U.S. Senate are the supreme law of the land (Article VI of the U.S. Constitution) and therefore are domestic law. I have come to believe

that all those treaties, compacts and conventions bind all U.S. citizens: including President Clinton, Trident submarine commanders, judges, and myself. Those agreements include, but are not limited to: Hague Convention IV of 1907 Respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land and Annex Thereto; Geneva Protocol for the Prohibition of Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare of 1925; Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilians in Time of War of 1949.

As I have said, the threat of nuclear weapons is a danger that the world must face. The nuclear arms race must be stopped. The use of nuclear weapons must be prohibited. Project ELF has not been proven safe for the people and environment in and around Ashland County. According to Chief U.S. District Judge Barbara Crabb, U.S. Navy studies on the safety of Project ELF are contradicted and inconclusive. After reading research on electromagnetic fields - like the one produced by Project ELF - and their effects on organisms, I have come to believe that Project ELF represents an imminent threat to people and the environment.

Even after the end of the Cold War, the world is plagued by the existence of nearly 30,000 nuclear bombs. Nuclear weapons are portable "death camps" waiting to be delivered to their victims. Throughout my life, I have heard the occasional question: "Why didn't more German citizens do something to stop the holocaust?" My hope is that we will continue to careen toward disaster from nuclear proliferation. This will help turn the tide to real security by promoting nuclear disarmament. I hope that in the future the children will not ask: "How could so many people know about these most deadly weapons and do nothing to stop it?" Regardless of the immediate outcome of this action, I'm trusting that I'll be on the right side of history.

Trial Update

The charges related to the Silence Trident Disarmament Action and the trial date will soon be set. Anyone interested in attending the trial, contact the DMCW at

515-243-0765



Called to Serve

continued from p2

commandment to love my neighbor as myself. While my actions may have looked acceptable to others, God gave me a look at my heart and it was convicting. While I was doing many "Christian" things outwardly, God is asking me for more. He is asking for my life.

There is now no way I could pass up this opportunity to be obedient to His leading....obedience born of love rather than obligation. Thankfully, God in His mercy chooses to chip away gradually at those things in my life that aren't pleasing to Him. I'm finding there is great freedom and peace in letting go of my stuff and trusting Him.

And, finally, Mike and I are of one mind and heart and look forward to serving God as part of this Community.

Catholic Peace Ministry's Annual Martyrs' Commemoration

Sunday Dec. 3 at 7:00 p.m.

St. Catherine of Siena / Drake Newman Community
1150 - 28th St., Des Moines, IA

Featured Speakers:

Fr Frank Cordaro & Richard Flamer

Each year the CPM honors the Martyrs of the Central and Latin American civil wars of the Cold War era, especially the four American women and the six Jesuits who were murdered in the 1980s in El Salvador with a Martyrs' Commemoration Service. This year Fr. Frank Cordaro and Richard Flamer of the DMCW will be the featured speakers. Richard brings first hand experiences of the Martyrs of Central America having spent 12 years covering the Civil Wars in five Central American countries during the 1980s & 90s as a photo journalist. His last assignment was in Guatemala photographing the uncovering of mass graves.

The offertory plate from this Martyrs' Commemoration Service will go toward the DMCW Chiapas Project.

Resistance Notes

The 22nd Annual Feast of the Holy Innocents Retreat,

Witness & Line Crossing: STRATCOM Headquarters

Dec. 26 - 28, 2000

I travel, there is the belief of 19 nuclear arms race, the Relative of nuclear holocaust has civilians in Ti This is a deception. The arms race is far from over. and safety must pursue the complete el me to an of nuclear weapons. A ot been prov after the end of the cold e and envirre remain 35,000 nuclear und Ashlans in the world. More than g to Chief Uf these in the U.S. and a Crabb, are on a hair-trigger alert. on the saifid or purposefully they contradicdestroy their target cities in After readin an hour." (Bishop Tho- magnetic fieumbleton, March 3, 1999 ced by Projr Peace Peacemaking ects on org/acceptance speech) to believe fitt Air Force Base (AFB) eents an imived as the home of our le and the's nuclear weapons target- and command headquarters and of the Cer 50 years. Formerly the lagued by gic Air Command, now the early 30,0 clear weap "camps" w to their my life, I ha al question German o to stop the is that by me when toward dis proliferation ide to real g nuclear that in the will not a many peo most dea nothing to s he immed ion, I'm tr e right sid

Strategic Command (STRATCOM), Offutt AFB holds the rest of the world under the threat of global nuclear annihilation every day, every hour, every minute of the year.

We invite you to come and celebrate with us the full and often ignored meaning of the Christmas story. Come and help us expose, confront and convert our country's God-awful nuclear weapons operational headquarters.

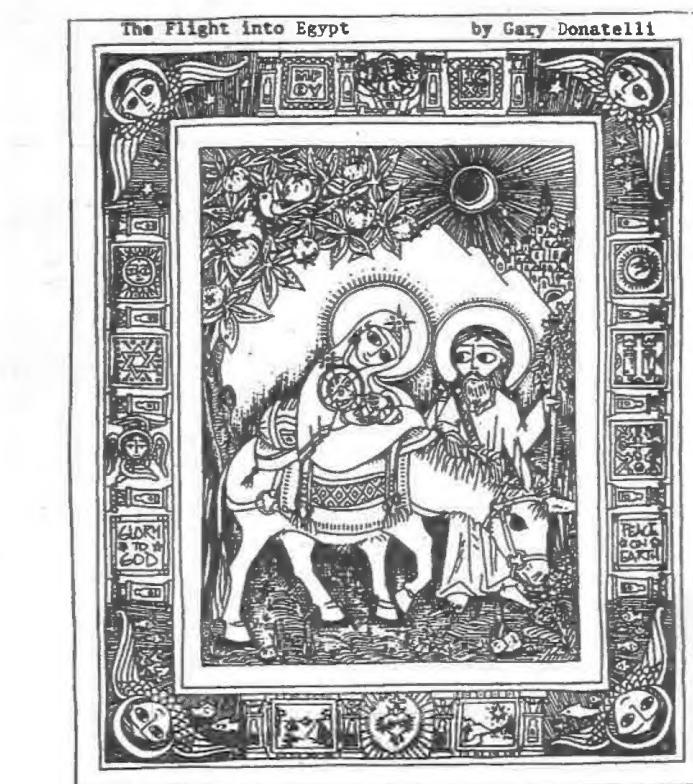
This year's retreat will be hosted at the UNO Religious Center at 101 N Happy Hollow Blvd. in Omaha NE. Plenty of floor space is available at the Center. If you need a bed, childcare or have any other special needs, please contact us.

The Retreat begins at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday night, Dec. 26th

with a Christmas Party. On Wednesday, Dec. 27th, we will drive to Offutt AFB for a brief prayer service and reading of St. Matthew's Infant Narrative. Nonviolence training, community building, bible study and prayer will also take place on Wednesday. The Retreat will end with a Vigil and Line Crossing at Offutt AFB at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 28th.

This year's retreat and witness is an excellent opportunity for people who want a first experience in nonviolent civil disobedience. We urge interested people to participate even if they do not intend to "cross the line."

Anyone who is considering doing the "Line Crossing" should plan on being with us for the full retreat. Any exceptions to this requirement for line crossers must



be cleared with the group Omaha / Council Bluffs area friends and supporters are encouraged to join us at any time during the gathering, especially for the witness and line crossing on Sunday, Dec. 28th.

The Des Moines Catholic Worker community invites you to join us. Registration forms and a map appear below this article. For more information, contact Fr. Frank Cordaro, DMCW, ph: (515) 243-0765

Directions to UNO Religious Center

The University of Nebraska of Omaha (UNO) Center's address is 101 N. Happy Hollow Blvd. The Center is located on Dodge St. just East of the UNO Campus at the S E corner of Memorial Park. The on site phone number during the retreat is (402) 558-0234 or (402) 588-6737.

Registration Form for Feast of Holy Innocents Retreat & Witness

Yes, I (we) plan to join you

for the Christmas Party Tues. Dec. 26 _____
& for the Retreat Dec. 27 & 28 _____
& for the Witness at Offutt AFB Dec. 28 _____

Yes, I (we) will need hospitality

for Tues. night Dec. 26 _____
& Wed. night Dec. 27 _____
How many people _____ Floor Space _____ Beds _____

No, I can't make it - but please keep me informed of future StratCom efforts.

Donations are needed to help defer the cost of the gathering and future efforts. (Make checks out to Frank Cordaro. We have no bank account.)

Children are welcome. If you plan to bring children and want help with child care please notify us before hand. If you have any other special needs, let us know ahead of time so we can make every effort to accommodate you.

Name _____

Ph. No. _____

Address _____

Send to: Fr. Frank Cordaro, PO Box 4551, Des Moines IA 50306



DMCW photo

at STRATCOM Headquarter, Omaha, NE , August 9 this year. From left to right are Ed Bloomer, Mark Kenny, Jerry Ebner and Richard Flamer.



DMCW photo

Brian Terrell among students and faculty protesting General Colin Powell's lecture at Buena Vista College, Storm Lake, IA on September 22

via pacis

Des Moines Catholic Worker
PO Box 4551
Des Moines IA 50306

PRBRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DES MOINES, IA
PERMIT NO. 4171

Address Service Requested

DMCW NEEDS

† **Prayers!** Without them none of the rest matters.

† **\$!** Winter months are always more costly around here. What with the extra expenses of building materials for our renovations and the effort we are making to get funding for the Chiapas Project, we hardly had enough money to pay our property taxes this fall. If it were not for the directly solicited donations from a doctor friend of the DMCW and a cousin of mine, we could not have put out this *via pacis*. Please consider making a cash donation and help us pay our winter bills!

† **Blankets, Winter Coats, Scarves, Gloves and Tube Socks!** Last year we handed out over 500 blankets

during the winter months along with piles of coats, scarves and gloves. We need these items right away.

† **Foods and Stuff!** We can always use canned and dry goods, as well as toiletries, especially: coffee, 100% fruit juice, breakfast cereal, canned fruit, vegetables, beans & meat, diapers, maxi pads and tampons, disposable razors and shaving cream, shampoo, toilet paper and dish, cloths and hand soaps.

We are always looking for handy folks and work crews to help with much needed rehab, maintenance and general cleaning. People are also welcome to come and help us out with the hospitality. Just give a call and drop by.

Thanks for your continued support.

P.F. Frank

The Des Moines Catholic Worker Community

1310 7th St., Des Moines, IA (515) 243-0765

Please send contributions to: P.O. Box 4551, Des Moines, IA 50306
